

Reviews

WATER BEETLES OF FLORIDA

By Frank N. Young. University of Florida Studies, Biological Series, volume 5, number 1, pp. i-ix, 1-238; 111 illustrations. 6¾ x 10", paper bound. University of Florida Press, 1954. Price \$6.00.

This impressive book is the result of more than 15 years of study, during which the author examined an estimated 30,000 Florida water beetles, including many type specimens. He has included useful sections on collecting techniques and methods of preserving and mounting water beetles. Following an ecological discussion applying to aquatic beetles in general, the topography, climate, and vegetation of Florida is compared with that of the Atlantic and Gulf Coastal Plains. The various types of "landscapes" which are recognized by Dr. Young in Florida are discussed, and a map shows the extent of each of these ecologically significant zones. Special emphasis is placed upon differences in vegetation, soil, water conditions and general topography, and a few characteristic kinds of aquatic insects of each biome are mentioned. The origin of Florida water beetles is hypothesized. The present ecological distribution of 118 species is summarized in a table which will be valuable to all biologists working with aquatic forms of life anywhere in the world. The excellent key for the identification of families and subfamilies of aquatic beetles is illustrated with lucid drawings that clarify the meaning of each couplet. This key, as well as those to the genera occurring in the state, will prove extremely useful to Coleopterists, especially those in eastern United States. Each of the 9 families and 64 genera

is characterized briefly and many are illustrated by drawings. Keys are included which will separate all species known to occur in Florida. A discussion of each species includes a brief description, taxonomic notes, locality records, habitat preferences, and selected references. The bibliography and index for the book seem to be unusually complete. This publication should satisfy an urgent need for information about water beetles in general, and will be of great value to many Coleopterists. The sections concerning basic ecological aspects of aquatic biology will be useful and interesting to almost every entomologist. Dr. Young has done an extremely thorough job in preparing this worthwhile contribution, and his work will certainly be a classic on the subject for many, many years.

J. Gordon Edwards

FOREST ENTOMOLOGY IN HAWAII

By Otto H. Swezey (Consulting entomologist, Experiment Station of the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association and Honorary Consultant, Bernice P. Bishop Museum). An annotated checklist of the insect faunas of the various components of the Hawaiian forests. Bernice P. Bishop Museum Special Publication, vol. 44, pp. 1-266, 32 figs. Issued August 2, 1954. (Published in collaboration with the Hawaiian Botanical Society and the Hawaiian Entomological Society.) Edited by R. H. Van Zwaluwenberg.

This work is concerned with the host-plants, damage and occurrence of insects in relation to the native flora of Hawaii. It thus almost entirely concerns the native Hawaiian insects, which are highly endemic. There is a great deal of information on beetles in this work, since the Coleoptera form an important part of the native fauna. The information is not arranged by